Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 /115 R

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AGRIC:BSHARKEY

E/OT/TA:HBREWSTER

COMMERCE:SKRISTOFF

TREAS:MFELDMAN

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PR 291736Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MTN GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: QR CONSULTATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

REF: (A) MTN GENEVA 3173 (B) MTN GENEVA 5349 (NOTAL) (C) MTN GENEVA 5540 (NOTAL) (D) MTN GENEVA 5678 (NOTAL) (E) MTN GENEVA 5615 (NOTAL)

- 1. AT APRIL MEETING, NTM SUBGROUP ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS (QRS) AGREED TO PROCEDURES FOR BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES MAINTAINING QRS AND COUNTRIES NOTIFYING A DIRECT TRADESINTEREST IN THESE QRS. AS EXPECTED, EC INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO CONSIDER QRS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN AGRICULTURE GROUP RATHER THAN IN NTM SUBGROUP (REF A).
- 2. IN EARLY JUNE U.S., UNDER PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY NTM SUBGROUP, REQUEUTED QR CONSULTATIONS WITH 35 COUNTRIES ON BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. AS ANTICIPATED, EC RESPONDED TO U.S. REQUEST ALONG LINES OF EC STATEMENT AT APRIL NTM MEETING (REF B). U.S. HAS NOW RECEIVED SIMILAR NEGATIVE RESPONSES WITH RESPECT TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM NORWAY AND SWEDEN (REFS C AND D). WE ARE CONCERNED THAT JAPAN MIGHT FOLLOW UNFORTUNATE NORDIC EXAMPLE. 3. U.S. NOW FORMULATING POSITION FOR NEXT MEETING OF AGRICULTURE GROUP, SEPTEMBER 22. ONE OF PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEMS IS POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF QRS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (REF E). WE FEAR THAT, IF PRIOR SEPTEMBER 22 JAPAN, A D PERHAPS OTHER COUNTRIES, RESPOND NEGATIVELY TO U.S. REQUESTS FOR QR CONSULTATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UNDER PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY NTM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBGROUP, THIS WILL PREJUDICE CONSIDERATION THIS QUESTION AT AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING. PRIOR THIS MEETING WE HOPE TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE WITH EC.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY TOKYO AND MTN DEL GENEVA SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE JAPANESE OFFICIALS AND EXPRESS GENERAL U.S. DISAPPOINTMENT WITH JAPANESE POSITION IN VARIOUS MTN FORA SUPPORTING EC ON PROCEDURAL AGRICULTURAL

ISSUES. WE CAN UNDERSTAND JAPAN'S DESIRE TO PROTECT DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS BUT WE ARE DISAPPOINTED BY SUPPORT FOR WHAT WE REGARD AS EFFORTS TO EXCLUDE AGRI-CULTURE FROM REST OF MTN NEGOTIATIONS. IF JAPAN WISHES TO ACHIEVE ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF LIBERALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL TRADE, IT NEEDS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE U.S. OBJECTIVE OF THE LIBERALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LIBERALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL TRADE. IN THIS CONNECTION. JAPAN SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT IT SHIPS AROUND 25 PERCENT OF INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS TO U.S., AS COMPARED WITH ONLY 10 PERCENT TO EC. FURTHER, IF THE EMBASSY AND MTN DEL CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE, IT STOULD BE MENTIONED THAT JAPAN'S SUPPORT OF THE U.S. IN THIS MATTER WOULD ALSO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE U.S. TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MTN TO ANY JAPANESE REQUEST FOR SUPPLY ACCESS COMMITMENTS.

5. SPECIFICALLY, JAPAN SHOULD BE URGED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO U.S. REQUEST FOR QR CONSULTATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN NTM SUBGROUP. IF JAPAN UNWILLING GIVE POSITIVE RESPONSE AT THIS TIME, JAPAN SHOULD BE ASKEJ TO GIVE NO RESPONSE TO U.S. REQUEST, OR TO IMILAR REQUESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, BEFORE TREATMENT OF QRS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CONSIDERED BY AGRICULTURE GROUP. INGERSOLL

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TAGS: ETRD

To: MTN GENEVA TOKYO

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